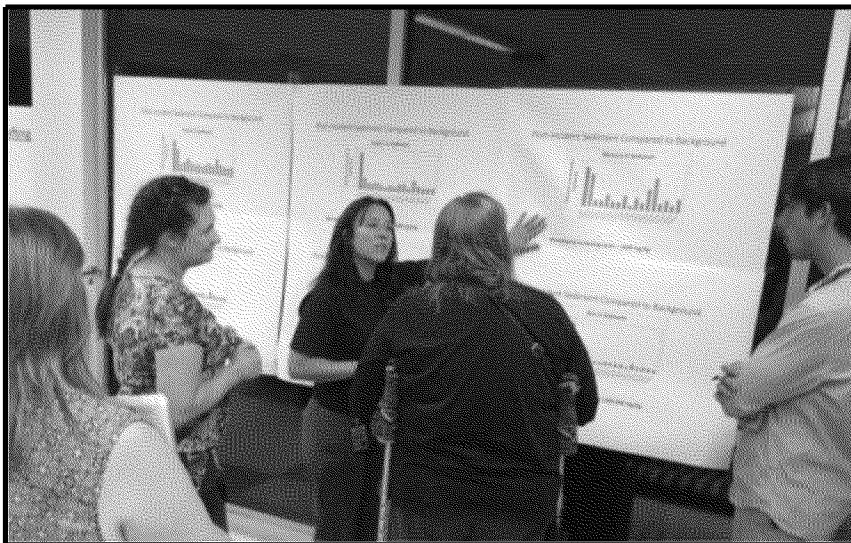


**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
AREA COMMAND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY / SITUATION REPORT  
2015 Gold King Mine Release**



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Area Command (EPA Regions 8, 6, and 9)**



Public meeting held in Durango, Colorado on August 20, 2015.

**Subject:** **EXECSUM / SITREP #10  
Gold King Mine Release**

**San Juan County, Colorado**  
**Latitude: 37.8945 Longitude: -107.6384**

**From:** Area Command Situation Unit

**Date:** 08/21/2015

**Reporting Period:** 08/20/2015 0700 through 08/21/2015 0700

**Website:** [www.epa.gov/goldkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine)

## **Executive Summary**

For Internal Use Only  
Gold King Mine Release  
EPA Executive Summary: August 21, 2015 1900

### **Situation Summary**

EPA Area Command (AC), comprised of EPA Regions 6, 8, and 9 is continuing strategic management over all Unified Incident Command Posts (ICPs) involved with the response.

### **Highlights, Key Updates/Changes**

- AC provided logistics and support for a public meeting by two staff members of Senator Barrasso's office and one representative from Senator Udall's office.
- AC Resources continued to work out details of the planned relocation of the Durango, CO Incident Command Post.
- AC continued to monitor the suspension of field activities within the Navajo Nation.

### **Area Command Emphasis**

For the next operational period, the AC command emphasis will be:

- Positive and professional communications with stakeholders and response personnel.
- Well-being of response personnel.
- Response documentation and right-sizing guidance.
- Safety risk management and mitigation practices.

Note: The metrics provided in this Situation Report represent quantities reported for work completed on August 19 and/or August 20, 2015. Metrics table cells highlighted in yellow represent a change in quantities from the previous day's Situation Report.

## **1.0 Operations**

### **1.1 Sampling Operations**

The table below summarizes Operations sampling activities for August 19, 2015.

**Table 1- Operations Sampling Summary**

<b>Matrix</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>August 20, 2015</b>	<b>Cumulative for Response*</b>
Private Drinking Water Well Samples	Region 8	15	296
	Region 6	46	259
	Region 9	0	0
Surface Water Samples	Region 8	8	182
	Region 6	10	140
	Region 9	1	140
Sediment Samples	Region 8	1	46
	Region 6	9	161
	Region 9	9	118

\*Note: Sample totals compiled from SCRIBE database. Totals include field samples and QA/QC samples. Cells highlighted in yellow represent changes in metrics from the previous day's Situation Report.

### **1.2 Water Distribution and Transportation Branch**

Area Command continues to monitor potable water, agricultural water and agricultural food deliveries. EPA has purchased 1,120 cases of bottled water to hand out to the community. The table below provides a summary of public support activities completed as of August 20, 2015.

**Table 2- Public Support Summary**

Activity	Region	August 20, 2015		Cumulative	
		Deliveries	Quantity*	Deliveries	Quantity*
Potable Water Deliveries	Region 8	2	53,000	22	327,400
	Region 6	0	0	0	0
	Region 9	0**	0**	0**	0**
Livestock / Agricultural Water Deliveries	Region 8	0	0	47	141,980
	Region 6	0	0	59	1,104,990
	Region 9	0	0	53	834,000
Agricultural Food Deliveries	Region 8	0	0	0	0
	Region 6	0	0	1	244
	Region 9	0	0	1	384

Notes \* Water quantities are reported in gallons, food quantities are reported in bales of hay.

\*\*Water deliveries in Region 9 are being handled by the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority.

Cells highlighted in yellow represent changes in metrics from the previous day's Situation Report.

### 1.3 Community Engagements

The table below provides a summary of Community engagements reported for August 20, 2015.

**Table 3- Community Engagement Summary**

August 20, 2015		
Community Engagements	Region 8	1
	Region 6	0
	Region 9	0

## **1.4 Anticipated VIP / Congressional Visits and Public Events**

The table below summarizes upcoming anticipated Site visits and public events.

**Table 4- Anticipated Site Visits and Public Events Summary**

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Planned Event</b>	<b>Anticipated Date</b>
Area Command	Information meeting hosted by members of Senator Barasso's office, along with EPA and local agencies.	8-21-2015
	Meeting with La Plata County Commissioners Office	8-21-2015
	Animas River Stakeholders Group Meeting	8-25-2015
Region 8	None scheduled.	N/A
Region 6	None scheduled.	N/A
Region 9	None scheduled.	N/A

## **1.5 Community Relations Branch**

EPA National Call Number (844-607-9700)- On August 20, 2015, the EPA National call number received **18** calls. As of August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the national call number has received a total of **193** calls.

EPA Region 8- On August 20, 2015, their regional call center (970-385-8700) received **15** calls. Their regional call center has received a total of **778** calls. On August 19, 2015, the toll-free call in number received **13** inquiries related to Region 8. To date, EPA Region 8 has received **101** calls on the toll-free call in number.

EPA Region 6- On August 20, 2015 the toll-free call-in number received **3** inquiries related to Region 6. To date, EPA Region 6 has received **60** calls.

EPA Region 9- On August 20, 2015, the toll-free call in number received **2** inquiries related to Region 9. To date, EPA Region 9 has received **27** calls.

## **2.0 Drinking Water System Impacts**

No known water systems are currently impacted by the release or response operations.

### 3.0 Finance

#### 3.1 Estimated Response Costs to Date

The table below summarizes estimated total costs for the response as of August 21, 2015.

**Table 5- Estimated Response Costs Reported as of August 21, 2015**

REGION	EPA EXPENDED PAYROLL	CUMULATIVE PAYROLL	EPA EXPENDED	CUMULATIVE TRAVEL TIME	EPA OTHER	CUMULATIVE CHARGES	CUMULATIVE CONTRACT	TOTAL CUMULATIVE COST	CUMULATIVE COSTS
EPA REGION	\$736,807		\$72,113			\$0	\$1,179,010		\$1,987,930
EPA REGION	\$263,340		\$70,350			\$78,855	\$1,523,005		\$1,935,550
EPA REGION	\$290,160		\$45,500			\$0	\$363,496		\$699,156
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,290,307</b>		<b>\$187,963</b>			<b>\$78,855</b>	<b>\$3,065,511</b>		<b>\$4,622,636</b>

Note: Cells highlighted in yellow represent changes in metrics from the previous day's Situation Report.

#### 3.2 Estimated Burn Rates

The table below summarizes current estimated burn rates for the response.

**Table 6- Estimated Burn Rates as of August 21, 2015**

REGION	ESTIMATED DAILY BURN RATE
EPA REGION 8	\$152,918
EPA REGION 6	\$148,888
EPA REGION 9	\$53,781
<b>TOTAL DAILY BURN</b>	<b>\$355,587</b>

Note: Cells highlighted in yellow represent changes in metrics from the previous day's Situation Report.

## **4.0 Participating Entities**

Federal, regional, local and other entities participating in the response are summarized below.

### **Region 8**

US EPA  
USFWS  
US Coast Guard  
US Bureau of Reclamation  
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)  
ERT  
Colorado Office of Emergency Management  
Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT)  
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe  
La Plata County  
San Juan County  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)  
Southwest IMT  
City of Durango  
Durango Fire Department  
San Juan County Health Department

### **Region 6**

US EPA  
USFWS  
NMED  
ATSDR  
NM Department of Health  
NM Office of the State Engineer  
NM Department of Game and Fish  
County of San Juan □ New Mexico

### **Region 9**

US EPA  
US Coast Guard  
Navajo Nation  
State of Colorado  
State of New Mexico  
State of Utah  
State of Arizona

## 5.0 Personnel On-Site

The table below summarizes staffing numbers for the federal entities and agencies active in the response.

**Table 7- Personnel On-Site as of August 20, 2015**

Region	Agency / Entity	Number of Personnel
Area Command	U.S. EPA	16
	US. EPA Contractors	3
	U.S. Coast Guard	3
EPA Region 8	U.S. EPA Region 8	23
	US. EPA Region 8 Contractors	33
	U.S. Coast Guard	7
	Other Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Entities	68
EPA Region 6	U.S. EPA Region 6	27
	US. EPA Region 6 Contractors	61
	U.S. Coast Guard	0
	Other Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Entities	0
EPA Region 9	U.S. EPA Region 9	10
	US. EPA Region 9 Contractors	21
	U.S. Coast Guard	8
	Other Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Entities	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>282</b>

Note: Cells highlighted in yellow represent changes in metrics from the previous day's Situation Report.

## 6.0 Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)

AC has implemented a CISM program for all personnel involved with the response. On August 20, 2015, the CISM center received **27** visits from response personnel. To date, the CISM center has received **62** visits.

## 7.0 Source of Additional Information

For additional information, refer to [www.epa.gov/goldkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine)

**ATTACHMENT 1**  
**PRESS RELEASES**

No Press Releases included for August 21, 2015.

**ATTACHMENT 2**  
**REGIONAL SITUATION REPORTS**

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
2015 Gold King Mine Release SITREP



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region 8

Subject: Situation Report #13  
Gold King Mine Release  
San Juan County, CO  
Latitude: 37.8945 Longitude: - - - 107.6384

From: Colorado Unified Command (Situation Unit)

Date: 08/21/2015  
Reporting Period 08/20/2015  
Website: <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine>

New information included in the SITREP is in bold text

## Executive Summary

On August 5, while investigating the Gold King Mine in the Animas River into the Cement Creek which feeds the Colorado River. As the leading edge of the release passed through Durango, New Mexico. On August 8, 2015, it crossed the border into the Juan River. As the leading edge of the release it became indistinguishable.

A Unified Command (UC) located in Durango, Colorado was created to mitigate contamination resulting from the release. The OEM, Southern Ute Indian Basin Health Department has transitioned out of the San Juan County and the UC. Currently the City of Durango and the Colorado Department of Public Health (CDPHE) are providing Agency Representatives to the UC.

The EPA and CDPHE have been taking daily surface water samples. Animas River sediment sampling has occurred. CDPHE has completed irrigation ditch assessment and analysis ditches were being flushed irrigation use.

The Animas River reopened to recreational use mid - - day watercraft since August 6, 2015. The City of Durango's event remained off CDPHE until irrigation use.

An EPA Area Command (AC) is also located in Durango between the EPA Regions 6, 8, and 9.

La Plata and San Juan counties still have active River remains issued 8/14/2015 by CDPHE for the Animas River.

A Joint Information Center (JIC) and an EPA AC public coordinating support for the EPA AC response.

## **Introduction**

### **1.0 Background**

Site Number:	Contract	Nur
D.O. Number:	Action	Memo
Response Auth CERCLA	Response	Type Emergency
Response Lead EPA	Incident	Cate
NPL Status:	Operable	Uni
Mobilization D:08/05/2015	Start Date:	08/05/2015
Demob Date:	Completion	[ ]
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS	ID:
ERNS No.:	State	Notification
		08/05/2015

### **2.0 Site Description**

The Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado is a historical mine. The mine has a continuous discharge of acidic water into the Cement Creek watershed. The Gold King Mine has not had maintenance since 1995 when the mine workings have been inaccessible.

### **3.0 Description of Threat**

Mine waste water was released into Cement Creek and based on US Geological Surveying (USGS) information. The initial environmental concern was the pulse of metals discharged into New Mexico where it joins the San Juan River.

### **4.0 Critical Resource Needs**

All resources are being tracked by the Resources Unit. ordered as needed to fill critical resource needs. There transitioning to new people over the next few days.

**5.0 Strategic Considerations**  
United group of subject matter experts to advise policy

**6.0 Incident Objectives**

1. Ensure health and safety criteria for lifting of the current private well personnel. and response
2. Identify criteria for implementation of the private health advisory.
3. Continue implementation of the private well sampling plan.
4. Finalize demobilization plan.
5. Facilitate transition to medium term sediment and river
6. Continue coordination with State, Federal, Tribal and local jurisdictions.
7. Continue management of audit discharge and discharge management
8. Ensure continued access to mine - - siting without constraints
9. Continue mine stabilization
10. Implement Emergency Alert plan and continue development and warning system.
11. Coordinate data sharing with local stakeholders.

## **Current Activities**

### **7.0 Property Assessments**

The EPA is continuing property assessments, as needed, and currently 4 - - 8 properties under consideration for targeted lining

**7.1 Surface Private Well Sampling and Sediment Sampling**  
The EPA is regularly surface sampling as follows:  
Cement Creek - 1  
Animas River upstream of confluence 1 with Cement Creek  
Animas River downstream of confluence with Cement Creek  
Animas River through Durango - 4

The EPA samples collected on 8/20/2015 are provided in

Matrix	Number Samples	Total Collected
Potable Water	17	296
Sediment	0	182
Surface Water	8	46

\*Quality Assurance samples are included in these numbers.

The EPA is conducting water sampling as needed and provide the analytical results. It reported unclear theft table caused by

by the mine release. Follow up work at the wells  
the well; resampling at the well; and taking an additional

The following table provides the private well information up

Quantity	Daily	Totals
Private well samples requested*	0	323
Private wells sampled (does not include residences)	15	282
Private wells with primary residences drinking	2	12
Remaining private wells to be sampled	41	

\*The well requests and remaining bothlists duplicates  
requesters and requestors determined to be on city  
list.

## 7.2 Call Center

Call center totals are provided in the following table:

Topic	8/20/2015	To Date
Well Water Scheduling	5	365
Water Concerns	2	108
Health Concerns	0	32
Recreation	0	21
Ecological Concerns	0	19
Livestock/Irrigation	0	19
Tourism/Media	4	63
Volunteer Offers	0	24
General Concerns	4	127
Daily Totals:	15	778

## 7.3 Water Distribution

On 8/20/15 potential water were two made locations total of 53,000  
1120 cases of bottled water have been purchased to  
available at the UC/AC facility for pickup by community

8.0 Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
The CDPHE finalized sampling teams CDPHE return to  
scheduled watershed sampling in the area. Public water system  
their regular sample plans established by CDPHE.

## 9.0 Mine Division Response Actions

The EPA continues to operate and work on optimizing  
mine site that are treating water by lowering acidity

10.0	Water	Treatment	Plant								
Caustic	and	flocculent going.	addition								
Initiated	pumping	from	Gold	King	Mine	treatment	pond	1			
Evaluated	Gladstone	area	for	potential	water	treatment					locations
11.0	Water	Quality	Sampling								
Water	quality	aparacallected	at	11 time	locations	daily	three				
Flow	Rate	of	647	GPM	was	recorded	at	0930	from		
Flow	rate	of	573	GPM	was	recorded	at	1525	from		
Teams	observed	turbidity	above	North	Fork	of	Cement	Cre			
12.0	Gold	King	Mine								
Mine	stability	consultants	are	on	site.						
Berm	on	GKM	road	was	improved.						
Began	removing	loose	rock	from	the	slope.					
Gabion	baskets	are	ready	to	be	deployed.					
13.0	Site	Visits									
NM	Senator	Barrasso	staff	visited	GKM	site.					
Office	of	Inspector	General	(OIG)	visited	site.					
Navajo	captives	voted	King	Mine.							
<b>Anticipated Activities</b>											
14.0	Durango	Anticipated	A	Activities							
The river	EPA diversion	will be	sampling	the	northern	fish	pri	pond	to ditch		
		ditch.	The	headwater	of	the	ditch				
15.0	Mine	Division	Anticipated	Activities							
15.1	Treatment	in	first	from	will	be treated	changed	to			
improve	circulation.			from	direct	the	changed	to			
15.2A	Survey	Gold	King	Mine	waste	. dump	will	be			
16.0	Other	activities	occurring	in	the	area	that	are			
16.1	Bureau	of	Land	Management	(BLM)	is	conducting				
San remove	Miguel poles	Power at	will the	remove Gold	damaged and King	Mine	power	permissions	lines	ton	

## Command and General Staff

### 17.1 Logistics Section

The UC ICP will be moved from the curdning fac  
the next operational period to of 8/26/2015 on Sunday The evening  
location is 135 Burnett ADr., Se~~Chicago~~, ne~~nd~~CO. to Unit phone  
entire operation at the undaylose 8/26/2015. business on S

### 17.2 Finance Section

The EPA Region 8 total 2015 cost is \$1,539,527. of Thethe current  
(\$/day) \$1,649,740.

### 17.3 Safety Officer

Additional PPE and other safety equipment wear e~~nhained o  
day Thursday 8/20/2015. Duthe toArea current Safety w~~e~~Officer fi  
emphasize fire safety and awareness. Please refrain from  
and be sure all cigarette butts are extinguished prop  
motorized vehicle in tall, dry grassy areas. Due  
moderate particulate and pay special attention respirationose with  
conditions.~~

You can contact your CISM team members at any  
Wendy Adams (R - - - 1592 425 466  
Tony Honnello (R - - - 1): 617 947 - - - 4414

### 17.4 Liaison Officer

No report.

### 17.5 Information Officer

A public meeting was held at Miller Middle School

Social Media Sites being maintained by the UC JIC:

Blog - goldkingminerelease.blogspot.com

FB - facebook.com/goldkingminerelease

Twitter - -, @GKMRelease01, @VisitSilverton

YouTube Channel - Gold King Mine Release

As of 07301 - - 2015, 8 the blog had 1504 page haews  
likes, 22 shares, 0 comments, total views 298; and the

## 18.0 Weather Forecast

Weather forecast for August 21 and 22, 2015:

### DURANGO AREA

Today

Isolated showers and thunderstorms after noon. Widespread haze.

Light and variable wind becoming west 10 to 15 mph.

Tonight

A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly mph. with a low around 52. West wind 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday

A 10 percent chance of showers becoming west in the afternoon. wind 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday Night

Partly cloudy, with a low around 53. Northwest wind midnight.

### SILVERTON AREA

Today

Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 3pm. Widespread west near 71. South wind 5 to 10 mph. becoming west as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Tonight

A slight thunderstorms chance of showers and thunderstorms before 2am, precipitation after 5am. Partly cloudy, with a low around 10%. around

Saturday

A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly mph. with a high near 70. West wind 5 to 15 mph.

Saturday Night

A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before mid. 40. West wind around 5 mph. becoming east after

## 19.0 Participating Entities

### 19.1 EPA Area Command

The AC includes EPA Regions 6, 8 and 9. The is working with New Mexico Environment Department is working with the Navajo Nation. The AC operational activities. AOPdates is on

**19.2 Unified Command and Cooperating Agencies**  
A Unified Command (UC) located in Durango, Colorado and mitigate contamination resulting from the release. The Colorado Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Southern County, San Juan Basin Health Department is an Agency of Juan County and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe are of Durango and the Colorado Department of (CDPH) Public are providing Agency Representatives to the UC.

The outcome of the individual measure, drinking water has discontinued installing reverse osmosis concerns. The SUIT is continuing sampling results show any concerns.

US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Technical Service Center the EPA road stabilization efforts in and around the

Total Personnel On Incident

Gold	King	Mine	Release	2015
			08/19/2015	
Group			Number	
EPA @ REOC		(12	on call	
Contractors @ REOC		2		
EPA in Field		10		
EPA Contractors in Fie		30		
EPA Laboratory		0		
Contractors Laboratory		1		
USCG		7		
ERT		1		
Subtotal EPA Region		51	(+12	

Personnel working at Colorado Unified Command Post on 08/20/15  
(Does not include Area Command Personnel):

Position / Section	Number of
Unified Command	4
PIO	13
Safety	1
Operations	3
Planning incl ENVL	5
Logistics	1
Finance	2
Liaisons	0

Agency Representatives/Administrators	1
Total	30

Organizations with individuals deployed to the response under

Colorado OEM

Southern Ute Tribe

La Plata County

San Juan County

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

State of Colorado resources: Southwest IMT, Northwest IMT,

City of Durango

San Juan Basin Health Dept.

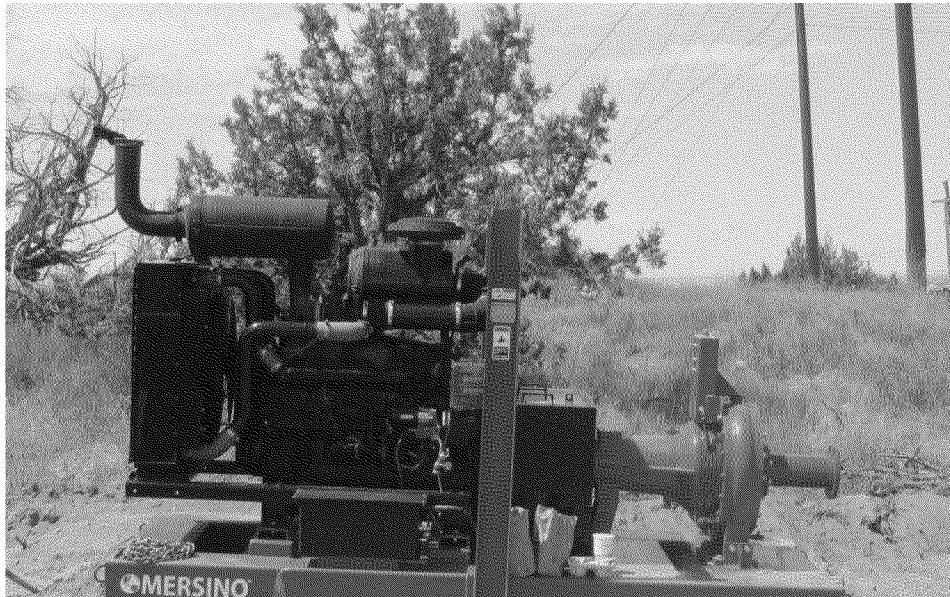
US Bureau of Reclamation

US Bureau of Indian Affairs

## 20.0 Definitions and Acronyms of

No new terms for this SITREP. Please see previous SITREP.

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT**  
Gold King Mine Spill - Region 6



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region VI**

**Subject: POLREP #14  
Gold King Mine Spill - Region 6**

**Various New Mexico locations, NM**

**Latitude: 36.8374600 Longitude: -107.9916800**

**From:** Ronnie Crossland, Region 6 Regional Incident Commander (RIC)

**Date:** 8/21/2015

**Reporting Period:** 8/20/2015 0700 – 8/20/2015 1900

**1. Introduction**

**1.1 Description of Threat**

Region 8 reported approximately three million gallons of mine waste water was released into Cement Creek and the Animas River. The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Durango, Colorado, and into New Mexico and Utah.

## **1.2 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**

Water monitoring and sampling is ongoing at public water supply intakes and private wells and field pH levels and other water quality parameters are being monitored.

## **2. Current Activities**

Headquarters has established a joint website at [www.epa.gov/goldkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine).

Created a new general public call-in number for Regions 6, 8, and 9: (844) 607-9700.

### **2.1 Operations Section**

EPA continues to discuss the short and long term criteria with NMED, as proposed in their submission.

#### Data Posting to the Web

The following data has been posted on the [www.epa.gov/goldkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine) web site.

- Drinking Water Intake Surface Water Data from August 6 – 12<sup>th</sup>
- Drinking Water Intake Sediment Data from August 10 – 13<sup>th</sup>
- Irrigation Ditch Sediment Data from August 13<sup>th</sup>

#### Community Meeting/VIP

No Community Meetings or VIP visits are scheduled.

#### Toll-Free Number Activity

	<b>8/20/15</b>	<b>Total to Date</b>
Total Calls Received	18	172
Calls Concerning R6	3	60
Calls Returned by R6	0	57

The table below is a breakdown of the calls pertaining to Region 6. Of the eighteen Well Water Test Scheduling calls, seven of the citizens expressed gratitude for EPA's efforts in sampling.

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>DATE: 08/20/2015</b>	<b>OVERALL TOTALS</b>
Well Water Test Scheduling	0	18
Water Concerns	1	8
Health Concerns	0	4
Livestock/Irrigation	0	4
Tourism/Media	0	1
Volunteer Offers	0	3
General Concerns	2	16
Contractor/Vendor Support	0	6
<b>Daily Totals:</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>60</b>

### Private Drinking Water Well Sampling

EPA sampled forty-two private water wells on August 20, 2015. Two owners declined to have EPA resample their wells. EPA plans to sample fifteen wells on Friday, August 21, 2015. A few more wells will need to be sampled over the weekend.

Date	Number of Private Wells Resampled
8/19	38
8/20	42
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>80 Distinct Wells</b>

EPA is drafting a letter to notify the private well owners about their test results from EPA's private well sampling when those results are available for reporting.

Date	Number of Private Wells Sampled
8/10	10
8/11	31
8/12	23
8/13	0 New Locations (38 re-samples)
8/14	35
8/15	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>114 Distinct Wells</b>

NMED and DOH are hosting free well water testing on August 24-25, 2015. EPA will have a representative present at this event. Although this event is being held in San Juan County, it was scheduled prior to the incident. The testing is available to residents of Farmington and surrounding areas that are not connected to a public water utility.

### Drinking Water Technical Support/Pretreatment/Connections

Morningstar has turned off the pump and is only processing water from their intake through the water treatment plant. Meanwhile, Morningstar is looking into asking Farmington for permission to connect to an 8" line under the hydrant.

### Surface Water and Sediment Sampling

	8/20/2015	Total to Date
River Surface Water Samples	9	123
River Sediment Samples	9	100

### Irrigation Ditch Sampling

The irrigation ditch sampling effort has been completed.

	Total to Date
Non-River Sediment/Soil Samples	59

### Agriculture and Livestock Water

The agriculture and livestock team demobilized on August 20, 2015.

	<b>Total to Date</b>
Farmers Served	28
Gallons to Farmers	1,068,270
Livestock Farms Served	31
Gallons to Livestock Farms	36,720
Hay/Alfalfa Pickup	244 bales

## 2.2 Finance Section

### Daily Cost Estimates Report

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>EPA Cumulative Expended Payroll</b>	<b>EPA Cumulative Expended Travel</b>	<b>EPA Cumulative Other Charges</b>	<b>Cumulative Contract Costs</b>	<b>TOTAL Cumulative Costs Expended</b>	<b>Estimated Daily Burn Rate</b>
EPA	\$263,340.00	\$70,350.00	\$11,854.56	\$1,523,004.90	\$1,868,549.46	\$180,110.00

## 3. Participating Entities in Region 6

US EPA  
USFWS  
NMED  
ATSDR  
NM Department of Health  
NM Office of the State Engineer  
NM Department of Game and Fish  
County of San Juan – New Mexico

## 4. Personnel

<b>Group</b>	<b>Number</b>
Region 6 EPA @ REOC	14
Region 6 Contractors @ REOC	6
Region 6 Staff in JIC – Durango, CO	2
Region 6 Staff in Area Command – Durango, CO	1
Region 6 DD – Farmington, NM	1
Region 6 EPA OSC	3
Region 6/7 Water Technicians	6
Region 6 EPA Contractors in Field	55

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
San Juan River Response - Removal Polrep



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region IX**

**Subject:** **POLREP #9**  
**San Juan River Response**

**Shiprock, NM**  
**Latitude: 36.8704828 Longitude: -108.7892506**

**To:** Robert Wise, EPA Region 9  
**From:** Kathleen Dillon, Situation Unit Leader  
**Date:** 8/21/2015  
**Reporting Period:**

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	<b>Contract Number:</b>
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>
<b>Response Authority:</b>	<b>Response Type:</b>
<b>Response Lead:</b>	<b>Incident Category:</b>
<b>NPL Status:</b>	<b>Operable Unit:</b>
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	<b>Start Date:</b>
<b>Demob Date:</b>	<b>Completion Date:</b>
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>
<b>ERNS No.:</b>	<b>State Notification:</b>
<b>FPN#:</b>	<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

The Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado is a historic gold mine at approximately 11,300 elevation. The mine has a continuous discharge of acidic mine drainage that is a significant contributor of manganese, zinc, copper, and cadmium into the Cement Creek drainage of the Animas River watershed. The Gold King Mine has not had maintenance of the mine workings since 1991, and the workings have been inaccessible since 1995 when the mine portal collapsed.

EPA Region 9 is focused on a stretch of the San Juan River extending from Farmington, NM to Mexican

Hat, UT.

#### **1.1.2.1 Location**

San Juan County, NM and Navajo Reservation. The Animas River flows into the San Juan River at Farmington, NM. After the Animas River meets the San Juan River, the San Juan River continues to flow west through parts of New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah.

#### **1.1.2.2 Description of Threat**

Mine waste water was released into Cement Creek and the Animas River. The volume of the release based on US Geological Survey (USGS) Cement Creek guaging station is estimated at three million gallons. The initial environmental concern was the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals discharged in Cement Creek which flows into the Animas River through Durango, Colorado, and into New Mexico where it joins the San Juan River before flowing into Utah. The river is also used for recreational purposes, including fishing and rafting, and is an important cultural resource for the Navajo Nation.

The leading edge of the release reached the New Mexico border on August 8, 2015 where it eventually discharged into the San Juan River.

#### **1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**

Aerial and ground reconnaissance indicates that the plume associated with the Gold King Mine release has dissipated downstream. There is no leading edge of contamination visible in downstream sections of the San Juan River or Lake Powell.

EPA Region 9 is collecting and assessing water quality from the San Juan River from La Plata Highway in New Mexico to Mexican Hat in Utah. Water sampling is occurring, and pH levels and dissolved concentrations of metals are being monitored.

### **1.2 Incident Objectives**

#### **1.Safety**

- Provide safe working environment for all response personnel.
- Identify safety issues and monitor adherence to Health and Safety Plan
- Ensure personnel receive adequate rest and time off

#### **2.Sampling**

- Daily water and sediment sampling from 11 designated locations along the San Juan River
- Sampling from Lake Powell
- Synchronize sampling data and information with Area Command

#### **3.Water Replacement**

- Work with Navajo representatives to staff water points and organize distribution

#### **4.Public Outreach**

- Coordinate public forum at which Navajo tribal leaders and community members can address Incident Command representatives.

### **2. Current Activities**

#### **2.1 Operations Section**

##### **2.1.1 Narrative**

Community outreach and sampling along the San Juan River is on hold until further notice. The Glen Canyon ICP is demobilizing.

##### **2.1.2 Response Actions to Date**

## **Sampling Branch**

EPA Region 9 initiated water and sediment sampling efforts on August 9, 2015, to assess the impacts of the release at the Gold King Mine on the San Juan River. Starting on August 9, samples were gathered from the shoreline of the following 11 designated locations along the San Juan River:

### **New Mexico**

San Juan River at LaPlata Highway (SJLP)  
 PNM Intake (SJFP)  
 San Juan River at Hogback (SJHB)  
 San Juan River at Shiprock (SJSR)  
 San Juan DS from Shiprock (SJDS)  
 San Juan River at Four Corners (SJ4C)

### **Utah**

San Juan River at McElmo Creek (SJME)  
 San Juan at Montezuma Creek (SJMC)  
 San Juan River at Bluff Bridge (SJBB)  
 San Juan River at Mexican Hat (SJMH)  
 McElmo Creek Tributary (MECT)

Sample totals are summarized below:

August 8 - 4 water samples (SJLP, SJFP, SJHB & SJSR)  
 August 9 - 13 water samples (all sites)  
 August 10 - 12 water samples, 11 sediment samples (all sites)  
 August 11 - 13 water samples, 13 sediment samples (all sites)  
 August 12 - 13 water samples, 13 sediment samples (all sites)  
 August 13 - 12 water samples, 12 sediment samples (all sites)  
 August 14 - 12 water samples, 12 sediment samples (all sites)  
 August 15 - 12 water samples, 12 sediment samples (all sites)  
 August 16 - 12 water samples, 12 sediment samples (all sites)  
 August 17 - 12 water samples, 12 sediment samples (all sites)  
 August 18 - 10 water samples, 10 sediment samples (did not sample at SJSR or SJDS)  
 August 19 - 10 water samples, 10 sediment samples (did not sample at SJSR or SJDS)  
 August 20 - no samples collected

There have been no requests for well samples and no requests for samples from diversion channels.

## **Community Relations Branch**

Community outreach within the Navajo Reservation is on hold until further notice. Chapter meetings are summarized below:

8/10 - Oljeto, Aneth  
 8/12 - Shiprock  
 8/14 - Oljeto, Aneth  
 8/15 - Hogback, Nenahnezad, San Juan, Upper Fruitland,  
 8/16 - Mexican Water, Gaadiiahi  
 8/17 - No meetings conducted  
 8/18 - Beclabito  
 8/19 - no meetings conducted  
 8/20 - no meetings conducted

## Water and Feed Delivery Branch

Water tank and feed delivery to Navajo Nation is on hold until further notice. A summary of water tank delivery for use for livestock and agriculture is as follows:

8/13 - 11,000 gallons of water delivered to Hal Chita, UT, 7,000 gallons of water delivered to Shiprock, NM  
 8/14 - 12 tanks (each 16,000 gallons) staged throughout Shiprock chapter  
 8/15 - 13 tanks (each 16,000 gallons) staged throughout various chapters of Navajo Nation.  
 8/16 - no change  
 8/17 - no change  
 8/18 - no change  
 8/19 - water and two tanks removed from Upper Fruitland  
 8/20 - no change

Tanks are located at the following positions:

Shiprock Rodeo Grounds  
 Gadiaah Chapterhouse  
 Teee Nos Pos Chapterhouse  
 Mexican Water  
 Mexican Hat  
 Montezuma  
 Windmill 9T-227  
 Windmill 9T-225 (Red Mesa)  
 Windmill 01T-509  
 Windmill 02A-93  
 Anneth Chapter House  
 Monument Valley Welcome Center

A summary of feed delivered for livestock is as follows:

8/14 - 384 bales of alfalfa delivered to Gaadiiahi chapter

Seven bales of alfalfa are anticipated to be delivered today to the Beclabito, Hogback, Upper Fruitland, and Nenahnezad chapters.

## Drinking Water System Impacts

No known water systems in Region 9 have been impacted.

## Glen Canyon, Arizona ICP

Sampling started 8/14 among the following sites:

SJPL- San Juan River Plunge Line  
 SJPL2 - San Juan River Plunge Line, Second Location  
 SJCH -San Juan at Clay Hills  
 SJIN - San Juan River In-Flow  
 SJIN2 - San Juan River In-Flow, Second Location  
 LPPW - Lake Powell at Piute Wash  
 LPCH - Lake Powell at San Juan Arm  
 LPRC - Lake Powell at Rock Creek  
 LPGB - Lake Powell at Gregory Butte  
 LPPC - Lake Powell at Princess Cove  
 LPNC - Lake Powell at Navajo Canyon  
 LPDAM - Lake Powell at Glen Canyon am

Sample totals are summarized below:

- 8/14 - 2 water, 1 sediment (SJCH)
- 8/15 - 9 water, 6 sediment (SJPL, SJPL2, SJIN, SJIN2, LPPW, LPCH)
- 8/16 - 5 water, 4 sediment (LPRC, LPGB, LPPC, LPNC, LPDAM)
- 8/19 - 12 water, 10 sediment (all except SJCH)

Glen Canyon ICP OSC demobilized yesterday. Liaison Officer will demobilize today. One START contractor on scene has been integrated into the USCG/NPS 14-day expedition and will depart today with that team. The START contractor will focus sampling efforts during this trip on the San Juan River Gold King Mine related water and sediment quality influences on Lake Powell.

## **2.2 Planning Section**

### **2.2.1 Anticipated Activities**

All operations in Navajo Nation are on hold until further notice.

The Glen Canyon ICP is in the process of demobilization. The one START contractor out of this ICP has joined the USCG/NPS crew on scene and will embark on a 14 day float trip to collect a more robust sample set.

Feed is expected to be delivered to various Navajo chapters during this operational period and continuing in to the future.

#### **2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities**

Sampling and public outreach on the Navajo Reservation is on hold.

#### **2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

#### **2.2.2 Issues**

On 17AUG15, at approximately 1130, seven members of the Farmington ICP response team were approached in the farmland area of Shiprock by a member of the Navajo Nation. The individual is in opposition to the response operations of Farmington ICP in regards to water and feed deliveries in the Shiprock Chapter. During the confrontation, the response personnel were threatened by being told their vehicles would be stoned. They were also intimidated by a second vehicle that showed up in support of the individual. The response personnel listened to what the individual had to say and eventually left.

At approximately 1215, another incident occurred with the same individual at the bridge in Shiprock. There, the individual argued with 2 EPA employees and threatened to break their equipment. The individual left after a few minutes. In both cases the response personnel returned to the Farmington ICP and were unharmed.

An investigation is being conducted by the Navajo Department of Criminal Investigation.

Due to these events, for the safety of our response personnel, operations are on hold in the Shiprock Chapter.

On 19AUG15, a video was posted on social media that showed Navajo Nation President and Attorney General alleging contamination in one of the water tanks delivered by the EPA. Until further notice, responders will not sample or perform community outreach on Navajo Nation due to elevated risk to responder safety although operations are expected to resume during the next operational period.

## **2.3 Logistics Section**

Requests from Navajo Nation for agriculture and livestock water and feed will be submitted to the Window Rock EOC via a ICS-213RR. Once signed, the request will be forwarded to the Farmington ICP where it will be processed.

## **2.4 Finance Section**

### **2.4.1 Narrative**

Yesterday, there was a burn rate of approximately \$6,397.39 for the ERRS contract through EQM (Environmental Quality Management, Inc.). A total of approximately \$294,168.00 is committed for upcoming operations.

START / Weston burn rate for 8/20 was estimated at \$40,000. This figure includes all overhead, activities conducted in the field, and lab analysis.

## **2.5 Other Command Staff**

### **2.5.1 Safety Officer**

With weather being forecasted into the 90s, hydration is of paramount importance. Additionally, much of the terrain surrounding the river is uneven and rocky. Responders should transit these areas with care.

While transiting throughout the region, responders should be mindful of the potential for contact with wildlife. Scorpions, snakes, and other similar animals raise a potential for injury.

### **2.5.2 Liaison Officer**

Liaison officers are continuing outreach with Navajo community members and representatives of the Navajo Tribe.

### **2.5.3. Weather Forecast**

Weather forecast for Friday, August 21

#### **FARMINGTON AREA**

##### *Today*

A mix of sun and clouds with a high of 91, low of 59 and 20% chance of precipitation. Wind coming out of the east at 12 miles per hour.

##### *Tonight*

No precipitation tonight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 58.

##### *Tomorrow*

Sunny with a high of 90, low of 58. No chance of precipitation.

## **3. Participating Entities**

### **3.1 Area Command**

EPA Region 9 is coordinating with EPA Regions 6 and 8, Navajo Nation, and the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona. The EPA Region 9 is working with the Navajo Nation to evaluate possible impacts to the Tribe. Potentially impacted water systems have been notified, and precautions are in place to ensure drinking water is protected. The EPA and New Mexico Environmental Department are providing assistance to community water systems and closely monitoring the situation. EPA Region 9 has contacted the Bureau of

Indian Affairs regarding potential impacts to the Navajo Nation and is currently working with Navajo liaisons.

### **3.2 Unified Command and Cooperating Agencies**

The UC includes EPA Region 9 and United States Coast Guard. Bret Moxley has assumed the role of Incident Commander.

## **4. Personnel On Site**

EPA - 10  
EPA START - 16  
ERRS - 5  
USCG - 8  
Navajo Liaisons - 2

## **5. Definition of Terms**

No information available at this time.

## **6. Additional sources of information**

### **6.1 Internet location of additional information/report**

[www.epa.gov/goldkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine)

## **7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.